

RISE - SSAWRN

Activities and progress report from:

Rhodes University, South Africa

Makerere University, Uganda

HOORC, University of Botswana

Eduardo Mondlane University,
Mozambique

Univeristy of Zimbabwe

Oct to Dec 2008

- ▣ Advertisement of post-graduate student bursaries.
- ▣ Processing of applications.
- ▣ Selection of students.
- ▣ Appointment of supervisors.

Jan to March

- ▣ Registration and orientation of students.
- ▣ Finalisation of research project topics.
- ▣ Initial preparation of proposals.

Research topics

- ▣ Main objective of the network:
 - To improve capacity in water resources research and management in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- ▣ Improve research capacity across a range of disciplines related to WRM.
 - Water quantity assessments.
 - Water quality assessments.
 - Water and the environment.
 - Water and livelihoods.
 - Water and health.

Water quantity assessments: Surface water

- ▣ R Tsimanga (PhD candidate – Rhodes Univ.)
 - Water resources variability in the Congo River basin.
- ▣ S Tirivarombo (PhD candidate – Rhodes Univ.)
 - Climate variability and change impacts on water resources in the Zambesi River basin.
- ▣ A Vilanculos (PhD candidate – Rhodes Univ., based in Mozambique)
 - Multi-reservoir system operation in the Zambesi River basin.

Water quantity assessments: Ground water

- ▣ J Tanner (MSc candidate – Rhodes Univ.)
 - Surface-ground water interactions in South Africa.
- ▣ E Govate (MSc candidate – Eduardo Mondlane Univ., Mozambique)
 - Hydrogeological characterisation and vulnerability analysis of aquifers near Tete City.
- ▣ P Timba (MSc candidate – Eduardo Mondlane Univ., Mozambique)
 - Hydrogeological characterisation and problems of ground water exploration in Machaze District, Manica Province.

Water Quality, ecotoxicology & biomonitoring

- ▣ I Naigaga (PhD candidate – Rhodes University, based at Makerere Univ., Uganda)
 - Use of bioindicators and biomarkers to assess aquatic environmental contamination.
- ▣ F Arimoro (Post-Doc – Rhodes Univ.)
 - Bioassessments for managing aquatic life uses for urban rivers.
- ▣ K Amutenya (MPhil candidate – HOORC, Botswana)
 - The effects of water quality on fish growth rates using otoliths.
- ▣ P Mensah (PhD candidate – Rhodes Univ.)
 - Effects of pesticide on river health.
- ▣ O Odume (MSc candidate – Rhodes Univ.)
 - Biomonitoring for pollution detection.

Water & natural resources

- ▣ M Motsholapheko (PhD candidate – HOORC, Botswana)
 - Importance of seasonal flooding on the food chain link between zooplankton and juvenile fish in the Okavango Delta.
- ▣ G Tsheboeng (MPhil candidate – HOORC, Botswana)
 - Consequences of changing flood regime on floodplain vegetation in the Okavango Delta)

Water & Livelihoods/Health

- ▣ S Nqobizitha (PhD candidate – HOORC, Botswana)
 - Livelihood diversification and adaptation to flood variability in the Okavango Delta.
- ▣ J Ekou (MSc candidate – Makerere Univ.)
 - Molecular epidemiology of *Entamoeba histolytica* as a contaminant of water.
- ▣ J Erume (Post Doc – Makerere Univ.)
 - Sources of water-borne disease microbes contaminating Lake Victoria, Uganda.

April to September

- ▣ Students developing their research:
 - Literature searches
 - Proposal development
 - Data collection and some field work
 - Research methods

- ▣ Rhodes students:
 - Writing and presentation skills mentorship

September

- ▣ All students and most supervisors attended the 14th SANCIAHS symposium in Pietermaritzburg, KZN, South Africa (21 – 23 September).
- ▣ All students prepared presentations for a special 'RISE' session.
- ▣ Opportunities to mix with other water sepcialists and listen to their presentations.
- ▣ Business meeting was held on the morning of 24 Sept.
- ▣ General impression was favourable.
- ▣ Repeat this exercise at next years Waternet conference to be held in Lesotho.